

Donor Profile: Vicky Tsorlinis

Vicky has a huge heart for hospice, which was all the motivation she needed to become the top fundraiser at the 2013 Toronto Hike for Hospice. She launched a very personal, hand-written letter campaign that moved her community to donate. Vicky understands that:

“Everyone will eventually be touched by palliative care. When I support Emily’s House and PAC, I am ‘preparing’ for my own family... I hope to be as emotionally intact as I can be. I’m going to need help to hold it together. When it’s time to care for my own family, I will welcome the support of hospice care.”

This spring, Vicky will be hiking for her Emily’s House client, Fara*, who passed away last fall after they had spent only three volunteer hours together. Vicky explains, “As Fara’s caregiver, my hope was for a moment without pain, a moment for her to embrace her mother, a moment to smile for the sake of smiling, a moment to laugh for the sake of laughing, a moment to hope.” – Thank you, Vicky and your supporters, for all you do!

**Note: Fara’s name has been changed to honour her privacy.*



From the E.D. Desk’s: Rauni Salminen

In the short months since Emily’s House (EH) opened, we have made amazing strides toward achieving our common goal, which is to create Toronto’s first pediatric hospice, a center of excellence where patients and families receive the best care and support possible. The feedback we’ve received from families, referring agencies, and SickKids has been ecstatic; all our families have described the relief they now feel, knowing that EH is in their lives and in the lives of their children. Again and again, talking to them, the words you hear used to describe EH are “like home,” “a caring place,” and “amazing.” The father of a young person who recently died at EH said that what we had given his family – the opportunity to gather friends and family together for home-cooked meals, the chance to celebrate the daughter’s last birthday, and the special caring and support that is the goal of hospice care – could never have happened in the hospital.

To date, we have welcomed 92 admissions through the doors of EH. These admissions include respite, transition to

home, day programs and end of life care. In addition, in the past year, we have supported 422 individuals and families through our Philip Aziz Centre (PAC), “home to hospice”. Consistent with the history and experience of PAC, EH is quickly gaining a reputation for excellence and compassion in caring for children and families.

We are truly thrilled to announce the successful completion of our \$7,500,000 Capital Campaign; thanks to you we are open, fully furnished and completely debt free. We are deeply grateful to all of you for making this possible, and for continuing to embrace our annual program and operating costs.

At Emily’s House, life is celebrated. We try to fill each child’s day with smiles, laughter, hugs, music, play and care.

Our hospice programs both at EH and in the community are made possible through the generosity and commitment of the Ministry of Health, the Toronto Central LHIN, and our donors who understand that care is an essential priority when there is no cure. Every dollar donated, translates into hours of care and activity for children and families at EH, and support for adults, children and families in our community, and a vastly improved quality of life for all our clients.

However there is no “closing” of this campaign...and each year we must come together to meet the needs of all those whom we serve both at EH and in the community. Together, you the donors, our volunteers and staff are the arms of compassion extended towards adults, children and families facing the challenges of living with a life-limiting illness each day. Only together can we ensure that this vital care is available to those who need it most, at the right time and in the right place.

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To receive our newsletter electronically or be taken off our mailing list, please contact info@philipazizcentre.ca
www.philipazizcentre.ca
Phone: 416-363-9196
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YES! I would like to support compassionate, hospice and palliative care!

I would like to give a one-time donation of: \$300 \$150 \$75 Other \$_____

A monthly gift of \$_____ to be: charged to my credit card direct bank withdrawal

Please give today to support the following programs:

- In-home Volunteer Visiting Hospice Program Emily’s House
 Children & Families Programs Spiritual/Bereavement Program
 Wish List Item(s): _____

Emily’s House and the Philip Aziz Centre for Hospice Care provide respite and palliative care for children and adults living with life-limiting illnesses and their families: **compassionate care, when there is no cure...**

558 Gerrard Street E., Toronto, ON M4M 1X8

Tel: 416-363-9196 • Fax: 416-363-6983

www.philipazizcentre.ca

(Charitable registration # BN 89422 8063 RR0001)



Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Prov.: _____
Postal Code: _____ Tel.: _____
Email: _____
 Cheque (Please make cheques payable to Philip Aziz Centre)
 Credit Card VISA MasterCard
Card #: _____
Exp.: _____ Signature: _____

To donate online www.philipazizcentre.ca
(Tax receipts will be provided for donations over \$20)

Congratulations to Rauni Salminen, E.D. of Emily’s House and the Philip Aziz Centre, for being a WXN (Women’s Executive Network) Canada’s Most Powerful Women: Top 100 award winner, in the Xstrata Nickel Trailblazers and Trendsetters category!

Inside this Issue:

Heart-link: Baby Stephanie . . . 2
Volunteers 2
Events 3



“There are still those who do not understand palliative care and see it as boutique care, rather than as a natural and equally important part of health care as is maternity care.”
– The Honourable Sharon Carstairs, P.C., Senate of Canada



Heart-Link: Baby Stephanie

When two month old baby Stephanie was released from hospital, she was not ready to go home. Her inoperable heart condition meant complex medical care needs, and demands her first-time parents were not prepared for. Her dad works two jobs and long hours. Without Emily's House and the Philip Aziz Centre, her mom would be home alone and struggling.

As it is, baby Stephanie recently celebrated her six-month birthday at Emily's House – cared for by her mom. She also has a continuous bridge of care support, for medical and palliative care, between Sick Kids Hospital and Emily's House, with an extended team of approximately 30 people. Like most babies, Stephanie smiles, chatters, and is attentive to her surroundings, but unfortunately, she is failing to thrive.

"We celebrate her birthday every month, because for us it's a miracle that she's still alive," said Cherry, her mother. "It's a great experience that we are here. It's amazing."

As with any child who knows she is loved, Stephanie's eyes light up as she recognizes her dad's face when he comes in the door... It's almost like being at home.



"I met baby Stephanie, as a volunteer helping out a few hours a week. Each week I look forward to cuddling with her, reading to her, soothing her while she cries. I came into the situation knowing that Stephanie would likely have a short life, and make an effort to be present with her in the moment."

– Andrea Bruner, volunteer

Have you considered leaving a legacy?



While some of our volunteers and clients are working together to create memory albums to leave a loving legacy, we thought it would be a good time to invite our friends and supporters to consider leaving their own legacy.

The next time you are updating your personal Will and testament, you might want to consider planning a gift to Emily's House and the Philip Aziz Centre. Bequest giving is easy to do and reduces taxes on your estate's final tax return. When a charitable organization is written into your Will, there is no cost to you during your lifetime. The unique tax advantage can ease the tax burden on your loved ones, so they do not lose your hard-earned income or assets to fees and taxes.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Kroezen at 416-363-9196, ext. 212, or jenniferk@philipazizcentre.ca.

Events... Mark your calendar!



Bring your family! Create a team! Tell your social committee at work! Tell your friends and neighbours! Great prizes and incentives will be available for early registration, top fundraising and most creative team!

Toronto Hike for Hospice, Sunday, May 4th, 2014
Riverdale Park, 201 Winchester St., Toronto

Across Canada, hikers, striders, strollers and speed walkers will take it to the trails! On Sunday, May 4th, Toronto Hike for Hospice will raise awareness and essential funding for local, community hospice care. Join the 5 km challenge hike through Riverdale Park, or the 2 km leisure walk in historic Cabbagetown, followed by a barbeque, entertainment and lots of fun-filled activities.

"The Art of Caring" supporting Emily's House
Thursday, May 29th, 2014
Evergreen Brick Works, 550 Bayview Ave, Toronto

The Art of Caring will feature a silent auction of original art, live auction, music, dancing, martini bar, food by Terra Restaurant, and artist Holly Carr. For more information, please contact: Judy Tripp at judytr@hotmail.com.

Rock the House, Thursday, June 12th, 2014
Seven44 Restaurant and Lounge, 744 Mount Pleasant Road, Toronto

An evening to "rock the house," with music, dancing, beverages, snacks, raffles and revelry. Please RSVP to Jennifer Kroezen at 416-363-9196, ext. 212, or jenniferk@philipazizcentre.ca.

For more information on upcoming events, visit: philipazizcentre.ca.

We Love Our Volunteers!

While **PAC volunteers** in the hospice community program are busy serving frontline in the field, the Emily's House volunteers have been working just as hard, dressing up, singing, dancing, reading, cooking, rocking babies and doing crafts. Whether they serve adults or children, our volunteers always go the extra mile! It has also been amazing to watch our **Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)** in action. There is something extra special about kids spending time with other kids. **Thank you to all our volunteers!**

We want to give special mention to volunteer, **Donna Cadeau**, who clocked a record number of volunteers hours in 2013, through training, client care, administration and special events. Dedicated to Emily's House and PAC, Donna deeply respects our volunteer community. Thank you, Donna, for understanding the big picture of hospice and caring for everyone!



Upcoming volunteer information nights will be held on: Tuesday, March 18 @ 2 p.m.; Wednesday, March 26 @ 7 p.m.; Tuesday, April 22 @ 2 p.m.; and, Wednesday, April 30 @ 7 p.m. Tell your friends! For more information, contact: Amanda Maragos at 416-363-9196 or amandam@philipazizcentre.ca.

From Queen's Park

Recently, our E.D. joined E.D's from hospices across Ontario at Queen's Park to address M.P.P.s about the importance, availability and sustainability of quality hospice and palliative care. Our efforts, spearheaded by H.P.C.O. (Hospice Palliative Care Ontario), met with success, as all parties agreed that palliative care must be a priority as it is a vital part of our overall healthcare system. Stay tuned for further outcomes.